

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
MC-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W
-----081138Z 072044 /12

R 071001Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2996
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2909

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SY, LE
SUBJECT: SYRIAN-LEBANESE DRUZE ACTIVITIES

REF: DAMASCUS 2455

1. IN TWO SEPARATE TALKS WITH MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR (AND PROMINENT SYRIAN DRUZE) HAMOUD SHOUFFI, MOST
RECENT DURING BRIEFING FOR EMBASSY BEIRUT POLOFF MOLINEAUX,
SHOUFFI TOUCHED ON INTERNAL SYRIAN DRUZE ACTIVITIES AND
TIES OF LEBANESE DRUZE WITH SARG. ACCORDING TO SHOUFFI,
SYRIAN DRUZE HAVE NOT ORGANIZED THEMSELVES TO OPPOSE
ASAD REGIME IN WAKE OF JUMBLATT KILLING. INSTEAD, HE
SAID HIS SOURCES IN JABAL DRUZE TELL HIM THERE IS A
SPONTANEOUS MOVEMENT UNDERWAY AMONG DRUZE TO OBTAIN
HAD WEAPONS. "THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE CASE ARE SELLING
THEIR POSSESSIONS TO BUY GUNS AND AMMUNITION,"
HE ASSETTED. SHOUFFI SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD DRUZE
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WOULD BE IN FOREFRONT OF ANY OPPOSITION MOVEMENT
AGAINST ASAD REGIME.

2. CONCERNING TIES BETWEEN SARG AND LEBANESE DRUZE,
SHOUFFI TOLD EMBOFF AND MOLINEAUX MAY 2 THAT HE HAD
NOT YET HEARD WALID JUMBLATT HAD SCHEDULED A VISIT
TO DAMASCUS. HE PRESUMED WALID WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO

COME UNTIL ALLEGATIONS ABOUT SYRIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS FATHER'S DEATH HAD BEEN PUT ASIDE. IT WAS APPARENT THAT SHOEFI HIMSELF MAINTAINED RESERVATIONS ABOUT WALID'S CREDENTIALS AS HIS FATHER'S POLITICAL SUCCESSOR.

3. SHOEFI CONTINUED THAT VISIT BY SHEIKH ABU SHAQRA TO DAMASCUS (REFTEL) CONSTITUTED ATTEMPT BY SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF DRUZE COMMUNITY TO ENHANCE THEIR POLITICAL INFLUENCE AT EXPENSE OF SECULAR DRUZE LEADERS IN AFTERMATH OF KAMAL JUMBLATT'S DEATH. HE SAID THAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS TRADITIONALLY HAD TAKEN SECOND PLACE TO DRUZE COMMUNITY'S SECULAR POLITICIANS IN SPEAKING FOR COMMUNITY WITH NON-DRUZE AND IN DIRECTING DRUZE AFFAIRS WITHIN THE SECT.

4. COMMENT. SHOEFI'S DISMAY THAT DRUZE REACTION TO JUMBLATT'S DEATH NOT STRONGER WAS TEMPERED SOMEWHAT BY HIS WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN ONCE DRUZE HAVE ARMED THEMSELVES. PURCHASE OF WEAPONS IS EVIDENTLY TRADITIONAL DRUZE RESPONSE DURING PERIODS OF INSECURITY. SHOEFI'S REMARKS ABOUT INTENTIONS OF ABU SHAQRA INDICATE THAT DESIRE OF DRUZE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE AMONG LEBANESE DRUZE AND SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO SEEK SUPPORTERS FOR ITS POLICY IN LEBANON MAY HAVE PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF COMMON INTEREST. SARG MAY FIND IT EASIER TO DEAL WITH WALID JUMBLATT IF LEBANESE DRUZE SERIOUSLY COMPETE FOR SYRIAN SUPPORT. PELLETREAU
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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